(d) whether the Government of Maharashtra and other States have requested the Union Government to consider the modification in thescheme so as to provide benefit to the deserving section;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme has provision for distribution of free text books to all girls and SC/ST children, if there is no existing State Government scheme for the same purpose.

(d) to (f) The Government of Maharashtra had approached the Government of India for supply of free textbooks to boys belonging to OBC, VJ and BPL categories. However, since Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan norms do not permit supply of text books to boys in these categories, the Government of Maharashtra has taken a decision to supply free text books from I—X standard to all those students who are not covered under SSA norms from its own State budget.

Inhuman ragging in universities

374. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ragging is still rampant in various colleges under different universities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an inhuman form of ragging took place in the School of Architecture and Planning this year in Delhi;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; whether the culprits have been punished; and

(d) what efforts are being made by Government to stop such inhuman ragging in the universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI); (a) to(c) An incident of ragging took place in the premises of School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) (Deemed University), New Delhi in August, 2004. The Ministry constituted a two-member team to investigate the matter. The report clearly brought out that the ragging was mostly by way of use of abusive and filthy language and perhaps, in forcing the victim to mimic some obscene acts.

All the guilty students were suspended from classes for 3 weeks and monetary penalties were also imposed on some of them.

(d) The Government has taken note of the problem of ragging in Universities/Colleges. In order to explore the measures for curbing of ragging in Universities and Colleges, the UGC in September, 1999 constituted an expert committee. The report of expert committee was circulated to all universities for necessary action. Besides, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Petition No. 656 of 1998 on curbing the menace of ragging in the educational institutions have been circulated to all the State/UT Governments/Universities for strict compliance. The Commission has also invited the attention of the universities to the report of the committee constituted by the I.IT. Delhi on measures to curb ragging. AICTFE has also issued instructions to all the State Secretaries (Technical Education) and Vice-Chancellors of Technical Universities for taking necessary steps to prevent ragging in the Institutes.

Transfer of teachers in Kenariya Vidyalayas

375. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have found clear cut evidence that irregular procedure was adopted in the past to affect transfer of Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Transfers made under the guidelines with effect from April 1,2000 in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) led to a widespread dislocation of teachers across the country. Many of them were transferred thousands of kilometers away from their place of residence and families. Many couples were also separated across thousands of kilometers. This caused widespread misery in the entire system. Hundreds of teachers resigned from the service, some were dismissed for their inability to join in remote places. The measure not only affected families but also deprived KVS of experienced teachers. The recent transfer guidelines of 7th July, 2004 have tried to address this problem and is helping people to come closer